**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Yasuo OKUTANI and Masayuki YAMADA

Group Art 2654

Serial No.: 09/386,052

Examiner: Angela A. Armstrong

Filed: August 30, 1999

For: SPEECH SYNTHESIZING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND STORAGE  
MEDIUM THEREFORMail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**RECEIVED**

OCT 27 2003

Technology Center 2600

**CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

S I R:

An Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116, along with a Notice of Appeal, was filed on May 19, 2003 in response to an Office Action dated December 18, 2002. As Applicants had not received a communication responsive to this filing from the USPTO within a reasonable time, the undersigned contacted the Examiner to inquire as to status of the foregoing.

On or about September 2, 2003, the undersigned spoke with Examiner Armstrong, who informed us that there was no record of the May 19, 2003 filing in the case. As a return receipt postcard was received by Applicants indicating receipt by the PTO mailroom of the May 19 filed documents, it appears that the papers were internally misdirected at the PTO. As such, it was agreed with the Examiner to send her a courtesy copy of the Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116, along with accompanying documents, as filed May 19, 2003. A facsimile transmission was accordingly sent to the Examiner on September 2, 2003.

The Examiner reviewed the May 19 filing and promptly mailed an Advisory Action on October 8, 2003, for which courtesy Applicants would like to thank the Examiner. In response to the Advisory Action which indicated that the May 19 Amendment would not be

entered for reasons stated therein, Applicants herewith file a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) requesting entry and consideration of the May 19, 2003 Amendment.

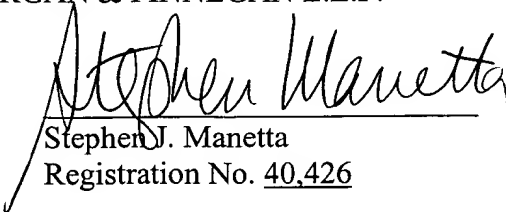
As the Notice of Appeal was filed on May 19, 2003, a petition for a 3 month extension of time would be due for filing a response on October 20, 2003 (as October 19 falls on a Sunday). However, as the delay at least until September 2, 2003 was through no fault of Applicants and entirely attributable to the USPTO, while a three month extension of time is ostensibly necessary and hereby petitioned, Applicants respectfully submit that the cost of such extension should not be borne by Applicants in view of the circumstances explained above, but for which Applicants would have filed the RCE in a timely fashion (i.e., without need for time extension).

In view of the foregoing, should any extension of time be required to render this Amendment timely filed for which Applicants must bear the cost, the Commissioner is hereby petitioned for such extension and authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4563.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of the instant application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided. An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN L.L.P.

By:

  
Stephen J. Manetta  
Registration No. 40,426

Dated: October 20, 2003

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